

Theology vol. 3.
A TRUE
ACCOUNT

Of what was Transacted in the

ASSEMBLY

OF THE

UNITED MINISTERS

OF

Devon and Cornwall,

MET AT

Exon, May 5. and 6. 1719.

Publsh'd by Order of the said ASSEMBLY,
to prevent Misrepresentation.

L O N D O N :

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and Crown in the Poultry, near Cheapside,
1719.

Price Three Pence.





A TRUE
ACCOUNT of, &c.

I. *A Voluntary Declaration
of their Faith, concerning
the Doctrine of the Sacred
TRINITY, as revealed in
the Holy Scriptures.*

Tuesday May 5.



WE whose Names are underwritten, to avoid the unjust Charge of having departed from the commonly receiv'd Faith in the HOLY TRINITY, do, for ourselves, declare, That we believe the Doctrine of the
Ever

Ever Blessed TRINITY, as express'd
in the First Article of the Church of En-
gland, to be according to the *Holy Scrip-
tures*.

*The First ARTICLE of the CHURCH
of ENGLAND.*

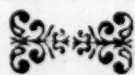
Of Faith in the Holy TRINITY.

THERE is but One Living and True
GOD, Everlasting, without Body, Parts,
or Passions ; of infinite Power, Wisdom and
Goodness ; the Maker and Preserver of all
Things, both visible and invisible : And in
the Unity of this Godhead, there be Three
Persons, of one Substance, Power, and Eter-
nity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Ghost.



PASTORS

PASTORS and Ordain'd MINISTERS.

*Nath. Harding, Mod.**Tho. Edgley, Scribe.**William Horsham.**Jacob Sandercok.**Samuel Wood.**John Rosewell.**Thomas Walsh**Samuel Hall.**John Moore.**Deliverance Larkham.**John Powell.**Jacob Baylies.**Richard Evans.**Michael Martyn.**Peter Kellow.**John Ball.**Jelinger Symonds.**John Enty.**John Walrond.**William Giles.**Andrew Majendie.**George Bowcher.**Samuel Short.**Henry Atkins.**Josiah Eveliegh.**John Sloly.**John Hughes.**Penuel Symonds.**William Bartlet.**Peter Baron.**Richard Glanvil.**Robert Wood.**William Palk.**Benjamin Wills.**Jonathan Wheeler.**Samuel Stoddon.**Henry Brett.**Hugh Browne.**Eliezer Hancock.**Benjamin Flavell.**Isaac Clark.**Cornelius Bond.**Alexander Walker.**Edward Colton.**John Lavington.**John Coplestone.*

P. S. THO' Mr. *Withers* was, by the Providence of GOD, detain'd from the Assembly, and thereby prevented from joining with them, yet having lately satisfied his People, by assenting to the First Article of the CHURCH of ENGLAND, he consents that the World should be inform'd of his sincere Adherence to the same Principles, he then profess'd.

THAT Mr. *Edward Colton's* Name is added to this and the following Lists, tho' he did not concur with the Assembly at the Time of their Meeting, is owing to his own express Desire, signify'd in a Letter from him to Mr. *Enty of Plymouth*, who was charg'd with the Care of getting these Proceedings printed; with whom his Letter may be seen by any Person that desires it.

Ordain'd MINISTERS in *Devon* and *Cornwal* that were not present at the Assembly, but assent to the first Article

cle of the CHURCH of *England*, and
agree to have their Names publish'd as
thus assenting, are

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Theophilus Tingcomb,</i> | <i>Jasper How,</i> |
| <i>Edward Bishop,</i> | <i>Robert Gough,</i> |
| <i>Daniel Kellow,</i> | <i>John Edmonds,</i> |
| <i>Angel Spark,</i> | <i>Thomas Jones,</i> |
| <i>Joseph Manston,</i> | <i>John Cudmore.</i> |



II. *Their Resolution with Respect to the Admission of Persons to preach as Can- didates, to be Ordain'd, and Recommended to Congrega- tions.*

WE, who have subscribed and de-
clared our Assent to the First
Article of the CHURCH of *ENGLAND*,
(disclaiming all Jurisdiction over other
Men's

Men's Consciences) do likewise, for our selves, farther declare, That we cannot in Conscience give our Approbation of any Person's being admitted to preach as a Candidate, or to be Ordain'd, or Recommended by Us to any Congregation, unless he professeth his Assent to the abovesaid Article, or to the Answers to the Fifth and Sixth Questions of the *Assembly's Shorter Catechism*, viz.

5th. *There is but One only, the Living and True G O D.*

6th. *There are Three Persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost ; and these Three are One G O D, the same in Substance, equal in Power and Glory.*

Or, to the Collective Sense of the last *September Assembly*, viz.

That there is but One Living and True GOD ; and that the Father, Word, and Holy Ghost, are that One G O D.

IT is not the Design of the Assembly, by this Resolution, to exclude any Persons from
from

from the Ministry, who shall in any other humane Words than these here mention'd, sufficiently express the Soundness of their Faith in the sacred Trinity.

PASTORS and Ordain'd MINISTERS.

Nath. Harding, Modr.

Tho. Edgley, Scribe.

William Horsham.

Jacob Sandercock.

Samuel Wood.

Thomas Walsb.

John Rosewell.

Samuel Hall.

John Moore.

Deliverance Larkham.

John Powell.

Jacob Baylies.

Richard Evans.

Michael Martyn.

Peter Kellow.

John Ball.

Jelinger Symonds.

John Enty.

John Walrond.

William Giles.

Andrew Majendie.

George Bowcher.

Samuel Short.

Henry Atkins.

Josiah Eveliegh.

John Stoly.

John Hughes.

Penuel Symonds.

William Bartlet.

Peter Baron.

Richard Glanvil.

Robert Wood.

William Palk.

Benjamin Wills.

Jonathan Wheeler.

Samuel Stoddon.

Henry Brett.

Hugh Browne.

Eliezer Hancock.

Benjamin Flazell.

Isaac Clark.

Cornelius Bond.

Alexander Walker.

Edward Colton.

John Lavington.

John Coplestone.

B

'TIS

'Tis the Desire of several Ministers that were present at our Assembly, that it should be added in this Edition, that after we had form'd the aforesaid Resolution, and determin'd to make it the Rule of our own Proceedings in our present unhappy Circumstances, Mr. *George Jacomb* offer'd himself to Ordination, and propos'd to deliver a Confession of Faith in Scripture Terms; but refus'd to explain and give us his Sense of any one Text. Upon which he was told by the Moderator, that it was (as he suppos'd) the Sense of the Assembly, that we could not ordain him upon these Terms, from that Reverence we had for the sacred Scriptures, as concluding, that 'tis the Sense of Scripture that we ought to have Satisfaction about, and to govern our Conduct by; and it being accordingly put to the Vote, Whether we should appoint any Persons to ordain Mr. *Jacomb*, unless he comply'd with the Resolution of the Assembly relating to Ordinations,

(II)

Ordinations, it was carried in the Negative.

Ordain'd MINISTERS in *Devon* and *Cornwal* who were not present at the Assembly, but concur in the aforesaid Resolution, and approve the following Letter of Advice, and consent to have their Names publish'd, as thus concurring and approving, are

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|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Theophilus Tingcomb,</i> | <i>Robert Gough,</i> |
| <i>Edward Bishop,</i> | <i>John Edmonds,</i> |
| <i>Angel Spark,</i> | <i>Thomas Jones,</i> |
| <i>Joseph Manston,</i> | <i>John Cudmore.</i> |





III. *A LETTER of Advice*
to the People of their re-
spective Congregations, &c.
to adhere stedfastly to the
Received Doctrine of the
Ever Blessed TRINITY.

Wednesday, May 6, 1719.

WE the United Ministers of *De-*
von and Cornwall, being now
 assembled in the *City* of *Exon*, cannot
 but express the utmost Concern and
 Grief of Mind that we are under, at
 the Propagation and Increase of very
 great and dangerous Errors, relating to
 the Doctrine of the Ever Blessed TR I -
 NITY,

NITY, finding, by sorrowful Experience, the Boldness and Industry of many who pervert the Faith, and overthrow the Hope of Christians ; not only by venting in Books such pernicious Tenets as these following, viz.

That JESUS CHRIST is a Divine Person, but inferior to the FATHER in Nature, Attributes, and Perfections, and that he is next to GOD in the Excellency of his Nature, &c. Letter to a Dissenter, Pag. 13. 14, 16, 23, 25.

And that the Holy Ghost is a Divine Person, made under the Supreme GOD by our Saviour, of different Perfections and Offices from the Father and the Son, Whist. Vol. IV. p. 334. Plainly suggesting Three Gods, One Supreme, and Two Subordinate: And others declaring both to be created ; but also, by many subtil Equivocations, and sophistical Arguments, insinuating their Leaven into the Minds of weak and unstable Christians

ftians, to the perplexing of some, and the seducing of others from the ancient and scriptural Foundations, upon which they had built their Confidence.

WE therefore, esteeming ourselves as Watchmen over *the Church of GOD, which he hath purchased with his own Blood **, to guard it even against those that from among ourselves should arise speaking perverse Things †, as well as against others from abroad; being also put in Trust with the Gospel ‖, and set for the Defence of it ‡, do think it our indispensable Duty most earnestly to admonish and intreat you, in the Bowels of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, to watch against, and stedfastly to withstand the Temptations, of all such Persons, Books and Doctrines, as have a Tendency to unsettle your Faith in

* *Acts* xx. 28.
ii. 4. † *Phil.* i. 17.

† *Acts* xx. 30.

‖ *1 Thess.*

the true and proper Divinity of the Son of GOD, and of the Holy Spirit, as one GOD, with the Father, into whose blessed Name you were baptiz'd.

AND tho' we heartily pity and pray for them that have fallen into such dangerous Errors, and shall by all Christian Methods seek their Recovery, yet, as we are Stewards of the Mysteries of Christ, we think we could not approve ourselves to be faithful to him, or to your Souls, if we did not most seriously warn and exhort you to take heed of all such Persons, and avoid their pernicious Errors, which we plainly discern to be such as enter into the very Vitals of Christianity, make a Change as to the Object of Worship, alter the Nature of Christ's Satisfaction, and tend to shake your Faith in the Holy Scriptures.

THEREFORE we advise and beseech you, as you regard the Honour of our Blessed Saviour, and the Safety
of

of your precious Souls, to mark them who cause Divisions and Offences, contrary to the Doctrines which ye have learned *. To hold fast the Form of sound Words, † and to **CONTEND EARNESTLY** (but soberly and Christianly) for the Faith, as it was once delivered to the Saints ‖. That you may never be prevailed with to **QUIT** the **GOOD FOUNDATION** upon which **ALONE** we apprehend your **HOPES CAN BE ESTABLISHED**: And which the Christian Churches have agreed and centred in throughout almost all the Ages of Christianity, and which God by his Holy Spirit hath owned and succeeded, to the Comfort and Salvation of vast Multitudes.

It affects us most nearly, to reflect upon the sad Estate of the Church of God in our Day; to see so many Members of it corrupted from the

* Rom. xvi 17. † 2 Tim. i. 13. ‖ Jude 3.
Simplicity

Simplicity that is in Christ, and so ready to suck in unsound Doctrines, very repugnant to the great Mystery of Godliness, contrary to the Unity of the Godhead, and derogatory to the Honour of our Glorious Redeemer and the Holy Spirit. And it will render us almost void of Comfort, if we should see you to depart from the Unity of Faith throughout the Churches, and to renounce the wholesome Principles of our common Christianity; which God forbid.

Watch therefore, we intreat you, *stand fast in the Lord*, * Dearly Beloved, and hold the Mystery of the Faith in a pure Conscience †. *And suffer not your selves to be as Children tossed to and fro by every Wind of Doctrine, by the Sleight of Men, and cunning Craftiness, whereby they lye in wait to deceive; but speaking the Truth in Love, grow up into him in all*

* Phil. iv. 1. † 1 Tim. iii 9.

things, who is the Head, even CHRIST.*

We hope, and trust, that you will evermore be ready to own and assert the true and real Godhead of the Father, the Word, and Holy Ghost, according to the Import of your Sacred Baptism. And, as there are Mysteries of an unsearchable Depth in the Divine Nature, and Manner of Subsistence, so you must be content, to know but in part here ; avoiding all bold Inquiries into them, beyond what the Holy Scriptures have discover'd : And all irreverent Discourses and Disputes about this awful and mysterious Doctrine ; humbly submitting your Faith to the Revelation which the All-wise GOD hath made of himself, and patiently waiting for the Day of Manifestation, *when we shall see Him, as He is.*

IN the mean Time, we heartily and unanimously declare our Consent of

* Eph. iv. 14, &c.

Faith in the Words of the First Article of the CHURCH of ENGLAND, or of the Answers to the 5th and 6th Questions of the *Assembly's Shorter Catechism*, or the Collective Sense of the last *September - Assembly*, which we acknowledge to be sound Summaries of our Faith in the Great Article of the HOLY TRINITY; and by which we maintain a Harmony with all the *Reformed Churches*.

WE hope, we shall never cease to offer up the most fervent Prayers to GOD for you, that He would *keep you from falling, and present you faultless before the Presence of his Glory, with exceeding Joy* *. And we earnestly desire the like Mark of your Respect for us in this Hour of Temptation; that the Holy Spirit of GOD which he poureth out upon His Churches, may preserve his Ministers sound in the

* Jude 24.

Faith, and exemplary in Life ; that in all Things, they may shew themselves *Patterns of Good Works : In Doctrine shewing Uncorruptness, Gravity, Sincerity, sound Speech that cannot be condemn'd, that they who are of the contrary Part, may be ashamed, having no evil Thing to say of us **. That when we shall all come to give up an Account, both of our Faith and Practice, *We may be your Rejoycing, even as ye are ours, in the Day of the LORD JESUS †.*

AND now, Dear Brethren, We commend you to GOD, and to the Word of his Grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an Inheritance among all them that are sanctified by Faith which is in Jesus Christ ||. To whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit, three Persons and one God, be Glory and Majesty, Dominion and Power, both now and evermore.

A M E N.

* Tit. ii. 7. † 2 Cor. i. 14. || Acts xx. 32.

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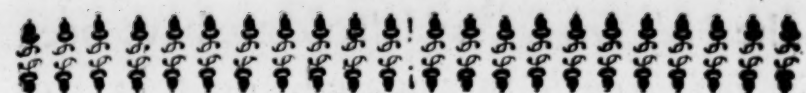
Approving

Approving Ministers who were not at
the Assembly are

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Theophilus Tingcomb,</i> | <i>Robert Gough,</i> |
| <i>Edward Bishop,</i> | <i>John Edmonds,</i> |
| <i>Angel Spark,</i> | <i>Thomas Jones,</i> |
| <i>Joseph Manston,</i> | <i>John Cudmore.</i> |

N. B. There are several Candidates for the Ministry that concur with us in our declared Sentiments concerning the Doctrine of the HOLY TRINITY, whose Names we have not incerted in our List, it having never been allowed that any should have Votes in our Assembly before Ordination.





IV. *A LETTER from the
Ministers of Devon and
Cornwal, Assembled at
Exon, May the 6th, to
the Reverend Ministers in
London, who subscrib'd
to the First Article of the
Church of England, and
Answers to the Fifth and
Sixth Questions of the Af-
sembly's Catechism.*

REVEREND SIRS,

WE the United Ministers of *Devon*
and *Cornwall* are very sensible of
the great Service you have done to the
Common Cause of Christianity in so open
and vigorous an Opposition to the dan-
gerous Errors relating to the Doctrine of
the

the *Holy Trinity*, which of late have been *so industriously* propagated, do take this Opportunity, now that we are assembled together, to express our Joy in the *Harmony* that is between us, and our THANKS for your *seasonably* interposing in a Matter of *so great Importance*.

A N D may the blessed G O D succeed our joint Endeavours for maintaining the Purity of the Faith and the Honour of our G L O R I O U S R E D E E M E R.

Subscrib'd in the Name, and by the Order of the *Assembly*, by

Nath. Harding, Modr.

Tho. Edgley, Scribe.

To the Rev. Ministers in London, who subscrib'd to the First Article of the Church of England, and the Answers to the Fifth and Sixth Questions of the Assembly's Catechism.



F I N I S.

